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In one respect not even woman can understand her sex. If there be a tale of suffering caused by the "sweating" process in large cities, and if it be clear that wages have been reduced below the point of honorable existence, fair dames purse pretty lips and ask: "Why don't they go out to service?" It is a never ending query.

WE are all more or less creatures of example. Like a flock of sheep we follow a leader over no matter what obstacle and in spite of all circumstances. Let a man make money by some wild plunging in speculation and incontinently a hundred others plunge after him only to lose their money. Let someone achieve distinction honorably and there are countless youths who endeavor to emulate him, and it is but slightly variant if the distinction is acquired dishonorably. Jesse James had probably as many admirers and more imitators than General Sheridan or General Custer.

THIS is a practical era, and on all sides is warfare raging against sentiment, against idealism, against poetry. There is a hammering at the doors of every tradition, and the violence offered to old sweet faiths and precious beliefs is in the name of science—though science itself walks lame and halting, and uncertain where it pretends to guide. What with modern theories of divorce, of selection, of cremation, etc., all that unified and beautified the family and thereby gave security to the state is being undermined, and in the ignorantly shouted name of science human character is in danger of being ground to dust between the stones of utility and materialism.

THE lyceum platform is no longer a potent factor in the higher life of this country. Whether it is under a temporary cloud or has passed into permanent desuetude, time only can tell. Fifty years ago it was the morning star of our American horizon, and for about a generation it held on its course with little sign of decline. But now it can hardly be said to exist. The time has gone by when there is a popular demand for a series of lectures on miscellaneous topics, and when it is safe for a lyceum to arrange for such a series. Individual lecturers may draw, or the people may turn out to hear a particular subject discussed, but the lyceum platform as an institution is no more. There is no little chivalry and gallantry in our day, but Arthur's round table is nowhere to be found.

THE recent commitment of a wealthy New Yorker's adopted son to the reformatory is remarkable case as showing the certainty with which the laws of heredity work, or, at least, the logical development of character according to conditions fixed at birth. Such innate moral deformity is no more easily curable than pronounced congenital physical deformity. Instead of becoming more pliable as maturity is reached, character becomes more and more fixed. If it begins in rottenness, it ends in loathsome corruption. If it is thoroughly diseased in boyhood, the disease is obstinate in manhood. A mere change of environment will not effect the transformation, though it may give a better chance to a character in which a sane equilibrium is disturbed by unfavorable conditions of life.

JOURNALISM, in this country, it is true, has not reached the acme of perfection either in spirit, tone, aim or the use of the English language. Within the ranks of so-called journalists, as in all other professions, there are some mighty mean men, some vicious and despicable characters, men who, on general principles, perhaps, ought to be summarily removed, and the influence of this class of men on the community is demoralizing and bad, still with all these faults and vices the average newspaper "feller" will rank up pretty well with the average citizen. The chances are that newspapers and their proprietors represent tolerably well the communities they serve, reflect the sentiments of their patrons, and, if unworthy, are not as guilty as the communities which have either tolerated or made them so.

IT is not to be supposed that there are many men and women so hardened that they would not feel an impulse of compassion for the miserable beings who are cramped in the living graves in sweater shops, stifled, starved and corrupted. Of those who realize the enormity of the thing, there are few who will personally take up the cause of actual reform, and for these few the means of working are limited. Besides their own indignant courage, the support of public opinion and violated sanitary regulations, they have but little to work with. The germ and bacteria theory offers a seemingly powerful weapon, but how many of the purchasers of garments manufactured in these hotbeds of disease have any idea of the contamination lurking in their folds or can be induced to believe in it? The deadly fascination of buying an article that seems phenomenally cheap, is too great to be resisted. The same spirit that actuates the [illegible]

THE LATEST FOR WOMEN

DRAPED CORSAGES POPULAR THIS AUTUMN AND WINTER.

Why the City Is the Natural Home of Fashion—New Ideas in Stylish Afternoon Gowns—In Two Weeks You May See These Styles.

(New York Correspondence.)

SUMMER IS over and I'm glad of it," was the remark of a fashionable friend upon whom I called the other day to welcome back to town.

"Yes, glad of it," she continued, "for now my life will be blest with some privacy—a thing almost unknown in the country, where rooms are small, partitions thin, and corridors narrow. In one week's time every secret of your toilet becomes known, and woe betide you unless you have a good stock of natural advantages. The moment you resort to the petty tricks and devices so necessary to the woman of forty who sees her hair growing thin and her complexion losing its glow and smoothness, that moment you are a marked woman. They discuss you at the breakfast table, they gossip about you in the parlor, they stare at you on the veranda. Thank heaven I'm back in my own apartments again, with my deep bath of soft water, my lounge, my stand, my pier glass, my boxes, bottles, flacons, atomizers, my wrappers and dishabilles, my slippers, my cushions and my hassocks!"

There is no gain saying the fact that the town is the proper abode for the genuine lady of fashion, by which expression I mean the lady who wears costumes and not clothes, who braves the pains and penalties of neuralgia in order to display the latest creation in bonnets or defies the deadly draught by wearing a cut out dress to the theater.

Draped corsages promise to be very popular. It seems to me nothing could exceed the exquisite taste displayed in the bias effects seen in some of the autumn gowns.

In my second illustration you will find pictured a very stylish and refined afternoon costume in embroidered woolen crepon. The skirt is slightly draped in front and finished with fan plaits at the back, and there is a garniture of embroidery on the bottom. The corsage consists of a chemisette of plaited crepe de chine reaching to the waist, sewed on the lining and closing by hooks in front. The chemisette is gathered at the neck and waist. There is a ribbon belt. The jacket is made in the ordinary way. The embrodery must not be applied until the fit is complete. The basques are lined with silk, and there is a straight collar, while the revers form a rolling one outside of it—all in all, a very charming toilet, which may, it should be borne in mind, be made up in any cloth material of modish color, such as the chevroned vicuna, in which darker stripes are made to figure the stuff with large and small chevrons: the embroidered pek n, chamois and light blue with white dots or Brittany cashmere, gray ground shaded with gray, blue of black stripes.

Plain gray vicuna and pearl gray amazon cloth will also be much worn, and I need hardly add that boas, Pierrot collars and lace ruches will continue to vie with feather boas for a place round the necks of our female exquisites, and that feather trimming, too, will make its appearance on street costumes, a new combination being corncolored cocks' feathers intermingled with green tips of peacocks feathers, which is very new, very stylish and very expensive. And as for hats, look out for felts in Marie Stuart style or round, always of the color of your costume. The woman of fashion must busy herself studying harmonies in color, so that from top to toe she may not display a discordant tone or be guilty of a false color chord.

My third illustration presents a very pretty morning dress, a white batiste delaine arranged in combination with gray silk, the latter being embroidered with large white and yellow daisies. The effect of this combination is particularly pleasing, as well from the original style of make as from the harmony of the delicate tones. A navy blue hat, trimmed with blue ribbons, is worn with this costume, the sunshade being gray.

Piastrous chemisettes and cuffs are daintily garnitured this season with passementerie which usually runs in two colors: for instance, white and gold, or blue and silver, but sometimes it is wholly of silk in two shades of [illegible]. A more pretentious garniture of [illegible] is called the pompadour. It consists of flowers and leaves festoon-wise, caught up with Louis XV. bows.

A certain wiseacre—naturally of the male gender—has been railing against fashions again. Of course he wants to abolish modes, affirms that they are a useless and silly expense and effect no good object, their main result being the encouragement of personal vanity and the discouragement of genuine worth of character. Says he: "There need be no other fashion than youth, beauty, grace, wit, and good taste." The monster, he tacitly advocates either the putting to death or the total seclusion of the oldish youngish woman.

The moment we lose our youth and beauty that moment we are no longer to be permitted to circulate. We must then be withdrawn, canceled and laid on the shelf. I rejoice that this ridiculous man raised this issue. It gives me the very opportunity I have longed for, to-wit: To show the grand mission of modes, which is to equalize the effect of these dangerous gifts, youth and beauty.

Fashion steps in, and by the touch of her magic wand rescues the plain looking and the faded woman from scorn and neglect. Wearing the beautiful uniforms of Queen Fashion these women—always in the great majority—are enabled to curb the haughty and

willful spirit of youth and beauty; hence we view the great necessity of modes. Strange as it may sound to male ears, fashions have been a potent factor in enfranchising woman. So long as she had but one style of gown to wear she could not help being more or less of a slave. Long live modes!

Notes.

Warm water in which is a little ammonia and some Indian meal makes a bath in which the feet should be soaked, then rubbed with a quick light friction, taking the foot between the hands and rubbing quickly back and forth. Manipulate every joint and keep the nails cut short, allowing no hang nails to remain. Do this religiously three times a week.

Collars, at least high ones, are used for cloth dresses and mantles, turned-back collars, frills of lace or chiffon being worn round the neck of soft silk and dainty Indian linen gowns which generally opens in a small V, this giving a bewitching simplicity and coolness, which is very desirable during the warm autumn days.

"I never could do that" stands in the way of many a man and woman in simple matters of refitting a room. A little harmless curiosity would give you all the points necessary to go home, and, with a hammer, a few tacks and a bit of material, renew the chair, lounge, window, or even a larger matter, and save an upholsterer's bill, which would be an unnecessary outlay when so much else is needed.

A most original decoration of a dinner table was formed of old brass Venetian figures of demons, centaurs and nymphs. The candleabra were supported by tall nymphs with upraised arms. The table was covered with a network of ivy leaves, among which were placed quaint demoniacal figures holding shells containing sweet meats; small ebony hoofs held the menu cards, and a few cut yellow roses were placed here and there upon the cloth.

Quite a Curiosity.

A curiosity has been found in Washington. It consists of a very large moose horn grafted in the base of a tree. It has been in that position for years, as the tree has grown around it so as to get such a grip on it that cutting the wood away is the only means of separating the two. It was found near the Betty O'Brien mine on the highlands south of the town. It is evident that at some remote period a huntsman was chasing the monarch of the woods, who, in running away, was caught in a tree, and in trying to extricate himself the horn was broken off.

Quite Evident.

Mr. Bradley Smyth in passing under the rear window of his house receives the contents of a pail of water on his head.

Mrs. Bradley Smyth—Oh, Bradley dear, I'm so sorry! Believe me, it was an accident. I did not throw it a you.

Mr. Bradley Smyth—I know you did not, dear.

Mrs. Bradley Smyth—How, love?

Mr. Bradley Smyth—Because you hit me.

Nature Asserted Her Rights.

Fashionable Physician (in surprise, to patient).—Why, you're getting better!

Patient.—Yes, Doctor.

Fashionable Physician (incensed).—Well, didn't I tell you there was no hope for you?

Patient (meekly).—Yes, Doctor, you must excuse me: but I couldn't help it.

A Poisonous Snake.

A copperhead snake was killed and cut in pieces by Benjamin Ogle, a farmer, near Denison, Texas. He lifted the head to examine it, and the mouth closed over his finger, one tooth puncturing the flesh. This wound caused blood poisoning, from which the man died.

Out of Sight.

"There was a fight down the street a little while ago, but they couldn't find a detective."

"What use did they have for a detective?"

"They wanted him to find a policeman."

Told in Few Words.

The vatican contains 208 staircases and 1,000 different rooms.

London omnibus drivers gained $900,000 a year by winning their strike.

It is said that one-eighth of the wine produced in California last year came from a single vineyard.

William H. Murphy of Southville, Mass., has been chosen captain of the Yale football team.

ORIGIN OF OMNIBUSES.

INTRODUCED IN PARIS AS EARLY AS 1662.

At Their Public Inauguration the Crowd Was So Dense as to Require Infantry and Cavalry to Clear the Way.

Of omnibuses it is generally accepted that their introduction into England was brought about by Mr. Shillibeer. This was in 1829, but Mr. Shillibeer forgot to state that he borrowed the idea from Paris, where omnibuses had been running for years before one was to be seen in London. Mr. C. Knight, in his "Volumn of Varieties" says the omnibus was tried in 1800 with four horses and six wheels, but met with so little patronage that it soon disappeared. But this was not to be the fate of Mr. Shillibeer's venture.

On Saturday, the 4th of July, 1829, we read in "Saunder's News Letter," was started the new vehicle called the omnibus. It is described as being capable of accommodating sixteen or eighteen passengers, but they were obliged all to ride inside, and by way of calming the fears of the public it was declared by the veracious chronicle that it would "be almost impossible to make it overturn, owing to the great width of the carriage."

It was, after the French fashion, says the Saturday Evening Post, drawn by three horses, and was described by the writer as a handsome machine in the shape of a van, with windows at each side and one at the end. He rather doubts, however, whether it will be easy to turn it, and thinks it impossible it can be driven through some of the streets of London. The fare was a shilling for the whole journey, and sixpence for half the distance, and by way of giving the new vehicle a favorable introduction, the passengers were for some time supplied with periodicals to read on the way, and thus beguile the time occupied by what must have been a tedious journey.

But the idea of a public conveyance corresponding with our present omnibus is after all more than two centuries old, and was actually for a time in operation in Paris as far back as 1662. There is a very interesting account given in "Chambers' Book of Days," of the great interest taken by Louis XIV. in the establishment of "twopence-halfpenny" omnibuses. Hired carriages had long been known in the French capital, they were let out by the hour or the day at the sign of St. Fiacre, but at such a cost as to be utterly beyond the reach of the middle classes.

So the Grand Monarque issued a decree establishing the omnibus, and a company, with the Duke de Roanes and two marquisses at its head, and of which the great Pascal was a shareholder, was formed for the purpose of carrying out the project. The decree laid it down that the coaches, of which there were originally seven, each holding eight passengers, should run at fixed hours full or empty from point to point in Paris "for the benefit of a great number of persons engaged in law suits, infirm people, and others, who have not the means to ride in chaise or carriage, which cannot be hired under a pistole or a couple of crowns a day."

Now here was a clear conception of the public need of a general and cheap conveyance in the streets of a large capital, however quaintly the idea may be expressed. But, alas, like all other reforms that come before their time, the movement was doomed to failure, and, not being able to survive the prejudices of the hour, was quietly shelved for about a hundred and fifty years. Nevertheless, it was started with all the pomp and ceremony that royal favor could give it.

The public inauguration of the new conveyances, says the historian, took place on the 18th of March, 1662, at seven o'clock in the morning, and was a grand and gay affair. Three of the coaches started from the Porte St. Antoine, and four from the Luxembourg.

Before they began their journey two commissaries of the Chatelat in legal robes, four guards of the grand provost, a body of city archers and of cavalry drew up in front of the people. An address was then delivered on the advantages of cheap traveling, and twopenny-halfpenny fares must have been cheaper than even the penny rides of to-day.

The passengers were exhorted to observe good order, and the coachman having been clothed with a long blue frock, with the arms of the King and the city showily embroidered on the front, the start was made. A provost guard rode in each carriage, as a symbol of authority, and so dense was the crowd to witness the novel sight, that infantry and cavalry had to be employed along the route to keep it clear.

For a time it was considered the height of fashion to ride in them, Louis XIV. setting the example by treating his royal person to a twopenny-half-penny journey. In fact, at the outset the wealthier classes quite monopolized vehicles that were intended for their humbler brethren.

Rest or Unrest.

They are introducing a novel method in Belgium, writes the foreign correspondent of the Homilitic Review, for the purpose of determining whether Sunday shall be a day of rest for letter carriers. Sunday postage stamps are to be provided. All letters with such stamps mailed on Saturday are to be delivered on Monday. After trying the experiment for awhile it is to be decided, according to the relative number of letters with these stamps, whether the majority of the letter-writing public wants the postman to enjoy a Sunday rest. If they do then the carriers are to be freed from Sunday work.

"Me and Dad."

A correspondent in the Sun thus relates the lesson given by a New England matron of olden time to her numerous offspring. Her husband had that day been elected as corporal in the local militia company. Both father and mother, especially the latter, seemed greatly elated with the new dignity that the family had secured. After the worthy pair had retired for the night, they continued to discuss the all important subject. The wife, as might be expected, did most of the talking. She dilated especially on the fact that, as her husband was corporal, the children should no longer associate with those of the neighbors. The children in the trundle-bed hearing their names mentioned, began to call out to the chief talker in the other bed: "Ma! Ma! Be we cockerels, too?" "No," came the response; "hush your noise and go to sleep. It's only me and your dad."

WILLIAM L. SCOTT.

His Sale of $20,000,000 Railroad Stock for William H. Vanderbilt.

In business matters Mr. Scott was quick in his conclusions, sound in judgment, and inexhaustible in resources, says the Louisville Courier-Journal. The public remembers yet the sale by William H. Vanderbilt of $20,000,000 worth of stock in the New York Central at 120. This sale was made by William L. Scott.

Vanderbilt, harassed and worried in the management of the property, vexed by public criticism and uncertain about his health, expressed in the presence of Scott a wish to be rid of the property.

"You are not in earnest," said Scott.

"I was never more in earnest in my life," was the reply.

"Why not sell it then?" the Pennsylvanian asked.

"Sell it?" exclaimed Vanderbilt; "where can I find a purchaser for $20,000,000 of the stock?"

"I can find such a purchaser," said Scott, "at a fair commission."

"Do it," was the response, "and I will pay you $500,000."

In a few days Scott had organized a syndicate among the bankers of New York to purchase the Vanderbilt stock at 120, and without any difficulty the transaction was concluded.

Then came Mr. Scott's demand for his commission of $500,000. Vanderbilt demurred; $500,000 was a big sum of money for such work. Mr. Scott insisted that it was a bargain made openly and seriously, and carried to a conclusion. Still Vanderbilt objected that it was too big a commission.

"What was it worth?" asked Mr. Scott.

"Oh," said Mr. Vanderbilt, "$200,000."

"Very well, then, let me have the $200,000," said the gentleman from Pennsylvania, and the matter was settled. Had Mr. Scott insisted there is little doubt the $500,000 would have been forthcoming. As it was, the commission was as easily earned as any money Mr. Scott ever made.

The Argentine Republic.

The growth of the Argentine republic in the past thirty years has been remarkable. According to recent statistics the population of the republic is now 4,000,000 as against 1,350,000 in 1861. There are now 7,000,000 acres under cultivation where in 1861 there were but 490,000 and while in that year there were but 18 miles of railroad in the country there are now over 5,000 miles in operation and 6,000 more, including the great transcontinental route, in course of construction. The public debt has grown pretty vigorously, too, however. It has increased from $17,000,000 to $613,000,000.

History Repeats Itself.

The gauge of the Roman chariots 2,000 years ago was four feet eight and a half inches—same as standard railroad gauge of to-day.

GRAINS OF GOLD.

He who follows a good example sets one.

Impossible desires are the height of unreason.

We each have a door of our own to sweep clean.

The bad thing about a little sin is that it won't stay little.

The only joys which live and grow are those which are shared with others.

There is no courage but in innocence, no constancy but in an honest cause.

None can be pleased without praise, and few can be praised without falsehood.

Resolves perish into vacancy which, if executed might have been noble works.

When about to commit a base deed respect thyselfs though there be no witness.

A little man never looks so big to the world as he does when he stands on a bag of money.

It is the work of a philosopher to be every day subduing his passions and laying aside his prejudices.

He who comes up to his own idea of greatness, must always have had a very low standard in his mind.

Nothing which is not a real crime will make a man appear so contemptible in the eyes of the world as inconsistency.

LIGHT AND WEIGHTY.

A London journal is trying to increase its popularity by publishing itself on scented paper.

The British warship Turquoise, for which Lord Beaconsfield payed £96,000, has been condemned as unfit for service.

Some dwellers in a Chelsea, Mass., street are so classical that they have petitioned the city government to "academize" it.

Tobacco smoking is growing rapidly in England. During the last fifty years the consumption per head of population was nearly double.

The electric cranks have made an electric light walking stick with a small incandescent lamp at the end and a storage battery inside.

To make white roses blue water the trees throughout the winter with a solution of Prussian blue, and if you want them to be green use sulphate of copper.

A New York hotel-keeper exhibited a box of twenty-five cigars which have been sent to him as a sample of what the Prince of Wales smokes. They are seven inches long, and cost $1,800 a thousand.

Elijah Havens, a prominent citizen of Windsor, Conn., had one side of his face shaven when he called the barber a fool, and the tonsorial virtuoso compelled him to go home with the wind blowing fifty per cent. A local justice fined the barber $2 for breach of contract.

Washington has a cat which is a regular theater-goer, gaining admittance through a broken window on the stage and leaving punctually at the close of the performance. It belongs in a drug store near the theater. Between seasons it's a very domestic animal rarely going away from the shop.

Will Fleming, of Del Norte, New Mex., while unpacking a case of mineral water put up in Shasta county, California found a live scorpion in the excelsior which was in the box. The scorpion was about five inches in length from tip to tip, and seemed to be none the worse off for his confinement.

Foxes, coons, rabbits and woodchucks, breeding on abandoned farms, have become so numerous in the towns within a radius of ten miles of Birmingham, Conn., that they are eating up all the farmers' profits. Mrs. Charles G. Shelton, of Monroe, lost forty turkeys in one night, all having been killed and eaten by foxes.

HEAVEN IS WEEPING.

MELBORNE MAKING EXPERIMENTS IN KANSAS.

People Have Much Faith in Him—Secrecy Observed by the Alleged Wizard—Wants to Sell His Invention to the Government.

Frank Melbourne, the rainmaker, whose successes in the West have been widely advertised, has been giving a test of the efficiency of his invention in Kansas under conditions that are regarded as being particularly trying. "Everybody believes in Melbourne," wrote a Goodland correspondent of the Kansas City Star a few days ago. "The committee of citizens who made the new contract with him by which rain is to be produced, has already evolved a gigantic scheme by which rain will be precipitated at regular intervals during May, June and July of 1892. A. B. Montgomery, who went to Salt Lake after Melbourne, affectionately addresses him as 'Frank,' and a general feeling of peace and good-will toward men prevails.

Melbourne keeps his secret well. He will not say how he made his discovery and whether a knowledge of chemistry assisted him in his experiments. The most information he will vouchsafe is that his series of experiments cost only from $100 to $300. He has no faith in the Dryenforth methods, which, he claims, have been tried in Australia.

"My only object," said he to a reporter, "in giving these experiments is to force the government to take an interest in them with a view to selling my secret. I consider Kansas a good field in which to operate."

The rainmaker admitted that a scheme had been submitted to him for making rain twice a month over a given territory in northwestern Kansas. The details, which the rainmaker failed to supply, were furnished by a young man by the name of Montgomery, who sees "millions in it."

The season in which the drought is most keenly felt in Kansas is the late spring and early summer. After it has been demonstrated that Melbourne can produce rain under the conditions which apply to this altitude and climate, a contract will be entered into by which rain will be guaranteed over a limited territory once every two weeks during May, June and July. The company which is to have Melbourne under contract will represent vast land interests, and Eastern investors will pour their money into the State as in the old boom days.

Neither Montgomery nor any other member of the committee knows anything about what materials or compounds the Australian carries about in the three boxes which he guards so jealously.

The mysterious structure, sixteen feet square and twelve feet high, which Melbourne has ordered erected, is an object of the deepest interest. A ladder leads through a cubby-hole, just large enough for a man's body, into a loft to this building. When the Australian betakes himself there he will eat and sleep there until rain has fallen or he is ready to admit failure. The knot holes have all been plugged up and everything necessary has been done except cutting a hole in the roof for the pipe which Mr. Melbourne claims is a necessary adjunct to his performance. This matter he will attend to himself.

No man bears the outward manifestation of confidence in himself and the ability to keep his own counsel more closely than Melbourne. He is cordial in his greeting, but has a happy faculty of not hearing leading questions or answering evasively.

Frank Melbourne

A "Swell" Occupation.

The gentlemen's furnishing stores of New York employ men to wear their new styles and so bring them into notice and fashion. There are said to be a dozen or so young fellows who have no other income than that derived from the tailors and furnishing stores, and whose only toil consists in disporting themselves arrayed like Solomon in all his glory before the eyes of his fellowmen. They are usually young men who mingle in good society, where the advertisement is worth something to the advertisers. They are fond of talking of their clothes, and when the subject is brought up generally mention the name of the firm where they do business. But they are very far from telling the nature of the business they really transact for the clothing firm, for that would mar their social standing. They are ostensibly employed an hour or two every day.

Prosperity in Argentine.

The growth of the Argentine Republic in the past thirty years has been remarkable. According to recent statistics the population of the republic is now 4,000,000, as against 1,350,000 in 1861. There are now 7,000,000 acres under cultivation where in 1861 there were but 490,000, and while in that year there were but 18 miles of railroad in the country there are now over 5,000 miles in operation and 6,000 more, including the great transcontinental route, in course of construction. The public debt has grown pretty vigorously, too, however. It has increased from $17,000,000 to $613,000,000.

One From Maine.

A pleasant variation of a fish story comes from Belfast, Me. A man caught a ten-inch trout, and while he held it in his hand, admiring it, a flutter of wings startled him. In an instant the fish had disappeared in the beak of a crow, which conveyed it to the top of an adjacent tree, and there leisurely enjoyed a fish dinner.

A Considerate Burglar.

After coolly throwing a sleeper's wooden leg out of the window, a Massachusetts burglar deliberately proceeded to plunder the room. When the movable valuables had been gathered for transportation, the burglar left a note for the cripple, stating where his artificial leg could be found.

INDIAN MUMMIES.

Remarkable Discovery on an Island in Columbia River, Oregon.

A dispatch from Kansas City says: J. W. Morrow, a medical student, who returned home recently from a western pleasure trip, brought with him what are believed to be the only two specimens of natural mummification known to science. He discovered them on Long island on the Columbia river, in Oregon, which had once been an Indian burying ground. In life one of the mummies was an old man, probably sixty years of age. He was buried in a sitting posture, the knees drawn up to his chin, the left arm thrust under the left leg and joined with the right in an attitude of supplication. The mummy is perfect, with the exception of a spot on the back, where contact with the earth caused decay.

Unlike the mummies of Egypt, in these the outlines of the body are not preserved. The viscera is gone, and they look like nothing so much as human frames covered with rawhide. In the old man all the organs and members are perfect, however, even to the tongue, lips, and cornea. Grayish black hair covers the head spots. Not a tooth is missing, though they are all very much worn, as in old age. The moccasins on the feet are in as good a state of preservation as is the body.

The other mummy is perfect except the head. It is that of a child about seven years old. When found it lay at full length in the box, its feet incased in buckskin moccasins and bits of ribbon, well preserved, tied about its legs. A blanket covered the other. In some respects the smaller mummy is the better specimen. The finger nails are perfect as in life. Mr. Morrow cannot account for the phenomenon. Settlers in the vicinity declare that the burying ground which was that of the Columbia River tribe, had not been used for forty years. The mummies are, therefore, at least twoscore years old, and may be a century. The soil of the island is sandy and the atmosphere hot and dry. This might account for the condition of the bodies, were it not for the fact that mounds on all sides of the one in which they were found contained nothing but bones. Morrow may decide to send the specimens to the world's fair, but ultimately they will find a resting place in some historical museum.

A VAGRANT CAT.

An Old Tabby That Chews Tobbacco and Goes Fishing.

Engineer W. A. H. Jones, at the Patuxet lake pumping station, at Cape Cod, Mass., has a cat that goes fishing and chews tobacco. In the rear of the dumping station is a small pond, where pussy, an ordinary striped tabby, will go and catch horned pout whenever she feels inclined for a fish dinner. She posts herself on the edge of a steep bank, and when one of the ungainly creatures comes up wobbling along in the shallow water below her kitty makes a quick dart with her paw with its five sharp hooks and sends the fish flying into the air and upon the bank. She will draw a small fish some five or six feet. Her tobacco habit was self-acquired by picking up crumbs of the weed as her owner whittled up a bit of plug for his pipe. Noticing this one day, he offered her a bit. To his surprise she accepted the quid with all the quickness of an old chewer. It has since become a regular habit for her to hunt up Mr. Jones every morning, and beg with all her arts for a chew. She eats the tobacco if it is a small enough piece to go into her mouth, but if a plug is given her she will lie down by it, apparently enjoying the taste. She has chewed for over two years now. The queerest points of the whole are that she will use but one brand, and turns up her furry nose at other kinds; while another is that she refuses a chew altogether when nursing her kittens. At a recent visit the visitor found her curled up in an old chair in the boiler room, with a bright little kitten beside her. A piece of tobacco was offered to her and she sniffed it over eagerly, looked reproachfully at the tempters, and there licking the kitten's face lovingly, laid down in the chair again with her nose close to the tobacco.

PERSIAN HOUSE SNAKES.

These Curious Pets Make a Buzzing Noise and Charm Birds.

The people of Persia are very unwilling to have house snakes destroyed. The creatures do no harm, and what is far more important, they are believed to be tenanted by the spirit of the late master of the house. English travelers and residents in the country naturally entertain a very different opinion, and sometimes find the superstition of the natives a trial hard to bear. Dr. Wills in his "Land of the Lion and the Sun," recounts one of his own experiences:

In my first house in Shiraz, an old and handsome one, I was continually annoyed by a buzzing, as of the winding of clock work. This, I was told, proceeded from the snakes, but I never saw one, though the buzzing was to be heard in all parts of the house.

One morning I was attracted by an unusual twittering of birds, and on looking out saw some thirty sparrows on the top of a wall, all jumping about in an excited manner, screaming, chattering and opening their beaks as if enraged.

At first I was at a loss to understand the cause of such a commotion, but presently I saw a pale yellow snake advancing deliberately upon the birds from the wooden window frame, out of which he hung. They appeared all of them quite fascinated, and none attempted to fly away. The snake did not take the nearest, but deliberately chose one more to his liking, and swallowed it.

Glad to be rid of my buzzing annoyances, I got my gun, and notwithstanding the entreaties of my servants, some of whom wept, assuring me that the reptile was inhabitated by the late master of the house, I gave him a dose of duck shot.

He was a big snake, about four feet long. I cut him open and extracted the sparrow. After some ten minutes' exposure to the sun the bird got up, and in half an hour more flew away, apparently unhurt.

Shortly afterward a servant of my landlord came and took away the snake's body, and all my own servants sulked and looked black for a week. When I spoke to my landlord, however, an educated man, he laughed, and simply congratulated me, saying that the clock winding snake had annoyed him for years. I never heard the noise again.

Teeth of Malays and Siamese.

The blackened teeth of the Malays and Siamese are not produced, as has been supposed heretofore, by coating them with a mixture of betel and lime, but by rubbing the teeth with a paste made from charred cocoanut kernels. This is carefully applied to the teeth [illegible] again, until a black varnish takes the natural white.